

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 2, which has been canceled.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 3-4, and 7-9 will be pending.

The drawings have been objected to because the Examiner finds Fig. 3(b) to be illegible.

Applicants submit a replacement drawing sheet of Fig. 3(b) in compliance with  
37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the new drawings and withdraw the objection.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shiiki, U.S. Patent No. 6,077,458, in view of Thomas, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0098644.

Claim 2 has not been rejected over Shiiki and Thomas. Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 2. In view of the amendment, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 would not be obvious over Shiiki in view of Thomas. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 has been objected to as allegedly being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the recitations in the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been canceled rendering the foregoing objection moot.

Claims 7-9 have been allowed.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 1, 3-4 and 7-9 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

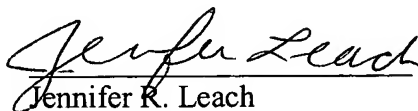
Respectfully submitted,

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**23373**

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Replacement drawing for Fig. 3(b) is submitted herewith. Fig. 3(b) is submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d). No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (Figs. 1-3(b))